

Introduction to the 2008 Primary Voters' Pamphlet

It's your choice ... it's your voice.

Congratulations on exercising your privilege and responsibility to take part in Washington's elections – never more important than in this watershed 2008 election year. Our new Top 2 Primary on August 19 will give you maximum choice, allowing you the independence and freedom to “vote for the person, not the party.”

When the courts threw out our cherished “blanket primary,” we immediately proposed a Top 2 system as a way to protect the freedom of citizens to vote for their favorite in each office. This new system was backed by the Legislature and strongly approved by the state voters in 2004 as the People's Choice Initiative, and we are pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld your rights.

We think you will like this easy, clear way of voting for your favorite candidate. It's as simple as this: You get to choose your favorite candidate for each office on the ballot, without regard to political preference. You are no longer restricted by the old “pick-a-party” system.

The Top 2 vote-getters for each office will advance to the November general election.

One new twist: Our new voter-approved primary no longer nominates a finalist from each major party, but rather sends the two most popular candidates forward for each office. It's a winnowing election to narrow the field. Your candidates have listed the party they prefer, but that doesn't mean the party endorses or affiliates with them. Some candidates prefer major parties, some prefer minor parties and some express no party preference. All have a chance to advance to the November ballot.

We believe you will enjoy this new way of voting. It's simple, easy and follows the longtime Washington tradition of wide-open voting. We invite you to visit www.vote.wa.gov for more information on your Top 2 Primary.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Reed".

SAM REED
Secretary of State

Secretary of State Voter Information Hotline (800) 448-4881

TDD/TTY Hotline for the hearing or speech impaired (800) 422-8683
